PRESIDENT (Cont'd)

plants for possible cold weather this winter. If any of you are in doubt as to what to do please write in and you will either receive the information you need or will be referred to someone close by who can help you. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your wonderful hospitality this summer.

Don't forget our winter show at the Florida State Fair on February 16th. There will be plenty of ribbons, Tri-Colors, Sweepstakes and three trophies, so come out and see us and bring your bloom. See you then.

May the Good Lord look on all you love, tenderly, today.

Rosalie Wylie

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WHOLESALE NEVER CLOSED RETAIL

THE HIBISCUS FAMILY IN AFRICA

There are some 1700 species in the Malvacaea family and it is usually possible to recognize in the wild form the relationship to the cultivated Hibiscus. The flowers vary greatly in size but the petals are always regular in shape and the filaments of the stamens are always united into a characertistic tubular column with the style protruding to the top of the tube. This gives the false impression that the stamens arise from the side of the style below the capitate or club-shaped stigma or stigmas.

The family (of which some 40 to 45 species are found growing wild in South Africa, occurring in all Provinces) are divided, as far as we are concerned in this country, into two main groups, i.e. Indigenous and Exotic.

Let us deal first of all with the Indigenous Hibiscus. They range from dwarf perennials, only three or four inches high, to tall trees. Several of them have been introduced into cultivation and are available to gardeners. None, however, is equal in magnificence to Hibiscus Rosa-sinensis, which is commonly grown in gardens, but they have pretty flowers and variety of form.

The Hibiscus species may be grown from seed which is best sown in early Spring when the warm weather begins. It will germinate in about a fortnight. The plants may also be grown from cuttings and they may be grown in ordinary garden soil and they may be grown in a sunny or semi-shaded position. The following species occur in South Africa:

HIBISCUS CALYPHYLLUS (Hibiscus Calcinus)

This is a rambling, evergreen shrub and has large yellow flowers from mid-summer to Autumn. It is known as the Pondoland Hibiscus. Each flower measures about four inches across and it has bright lemon petals forming an open trumpet, with a blackish-purple spot in the centre. The yellow stamens are pink-tipped.

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